



November 3, 2005

Dear Congressman Walden:

On behalf of the American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) I am writing in strong support of your effort to address forest health recovery following catastrophic events through the bipartisan introduction of the Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act (HR 4200).

We are encouraged that FERRA provides federal forestland managers the tools and expedited processes to conduct a timely and thorough evaluation of forest conditions following a catastrophic event, allowing for prompt and appropriate recovery of those lands. Your bill recognizes that, in many cases, quick action to remove dead and dying trees and to reforest the area can greatly improve forest conditions and repair damage inflicted by hurricanes, ice storms, wildfires, and insect infestations. Forest health across the country will improve significantly thanks to your legislation, in no small part because you are attempting to allow our nation's professional federal land managers to respond quickly to disasters, without the hindrances of excessive process requirements.

As the national trade association of the forest products industry, AF&PA represents more than 200 members companies and allied associations engaged in the growing, harvesting, and processing of wood fiber. This bill addresses a problem that we face nationwide, and we commend your efforts to put together a strong set of bipartisan co-sponsors representing our entire nation.

We greatly appreciate your commitment to improving the health of our national forests and look forward to working with you on passage of this bill in the House.

Sincerely,

Donna Harman  
Vice President, Congressional Affairs



# AF&PA News

A News Release from the American Forest & Paper Association

**For Immediate Release**  
**November 3, 2005**

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## **AF&PA Praises Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act Bipartisan Legislation Seen as Vital to Long Term Forest Health**

Washington, DC – The American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) has come out in support of Oregon Congressman Greg Walden's Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act (FERRA) which was introduced in the U.S. House earlier today. The legislation will help the U.S. Forest Service and states deal with the aftereffects of catastrophic natural disasters in forests.

"For years the nation's public forest managers have been calling out for help managing this country's growing forest health crisis," explained W. Henson Moore, President and CEO of the American Forest & Paper Association. "In 2003 they got the Healthy Forest Restoration Act with an emphasis on prevention; now they have this legislation that will help forest professionals cope with the aftereffects of a forest disaster."

Moore went on to point out that catastrophic forest events, whether they are wildfires, hurricanes, insect infestations, or disease outbreaks, have far-reaching implications. Often one disaster sets up perfect conditions for another, or can spread to neighboring private land. Moore said his members have long been alarmed by poor forest health conditions on public land adjacent to their own actively-managed land.

"It is important professional forest managers have the tools they need to help the forests recover from a disaster," Moore said. "Too often needed clean-up and restoration activity is blocked by lawsuits. It can turn a thousand-acre problem into a million-acre problem."

The National Forest System comprises 190 million acres across all 50 states. The Forest Service itself estimates more than one hundred million acres are at risk to catastrophic wildfire, insect infestation or disease.

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AF&PA is the national trade association of the forest, paper and wood products industry. AF&PA represents more than 200 companies and related associations that engage in or represent the manufacture of pulp, paper, paperboard and wood products. The forest products industry accounts for approximately 7 percent of total U.S. manufacturing output, employs more than one million people, and ranks among the top 10 manufacturing employers in 42 states. Visit AF&PA online at [www.afandpa.org](http://www.afandpa.org).